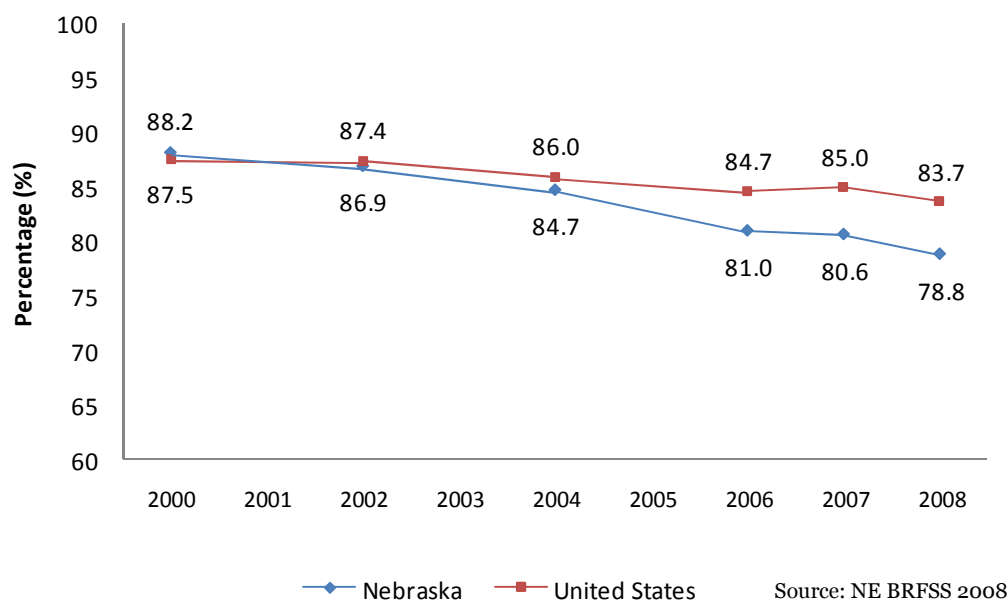


Cervical cancer screening among Nebraska women, 2008

Figure 1: Percentage of Nebraska women ages 18+ years who reported having a Pap test in the past 3 years, by year, 2000-2008



2008 Nebraska BRFSS Quick Facts:

- Approximately 1 in 5 Nebraska women ages 18+ years reported *not* having a Pap test in the past 3 years.
- Women who had no high school diploma or GED education or earned less than \$15K/year were less likely to report having a Pap test in the past 3 years compared to women with a higher education level and higher income level, respectively.

Figure 2: Percentage of Nebraska women ages 18+ years who reported having a Pap test in the past 3 years, by education level, 2008

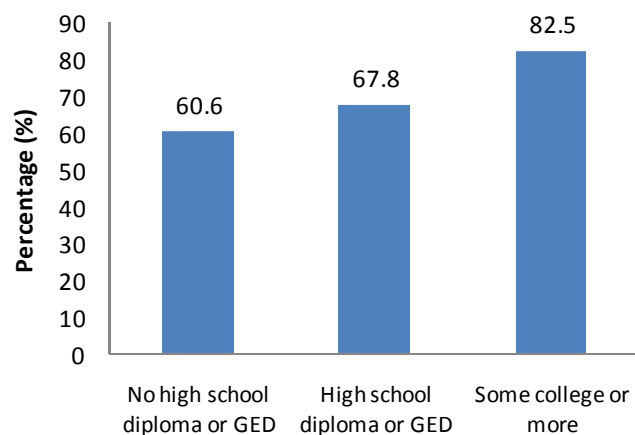
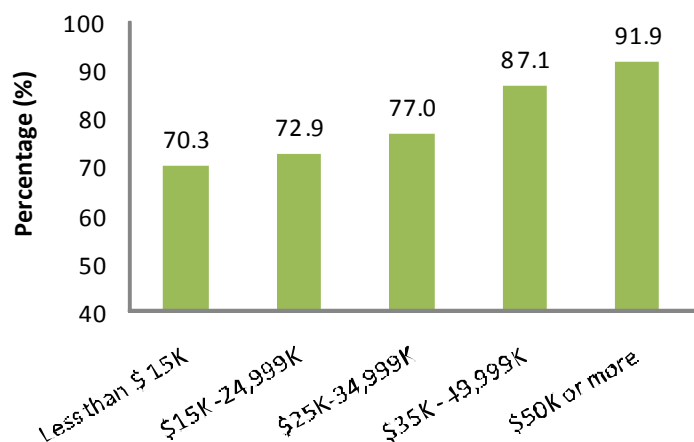


Figure 3: Percentage of Nebraska women ages 18+ years who reported having a Pap test in the past 3 years, by income level, 2008



Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV usually causes no symptoms and will often go away on its own; however, if it does not, there is a chance that, over time, it may cause cervical cancer.



The most important thing a woman can do to avoid getting cervical cancer is to have regular screening tests.

Cervical cancer is the easiest female cancer to prevent, with regular screening tests and follow-up. It is also highly curable when found and treated early.

The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for pre-cancers, or cell changes, on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately. *Women should start getting regular Pap tests at age 21, or within three years of first having sex.*

Women ages 30 years or older whose Pap tests are normal have a very low chance of getting cervical cancer in the next few years. For that reason, such women may not need another screening test for up to three years. However, it is important to visit a doctor regularly for a checkup that may include a pelvic exam.

Every Woman Matters is a program that can help women ages 40-64 years who meet income eligibility requirements pay for Pap tests. For more information, visit www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth/ewm

For more information about cervical cancer screening, contact:

Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Control
301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026
Phone: 402-471-4411
Fax: 402-471-6446
Website: www.dhhs.ne.gov/NebraskaCARES



About the Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) has been conducting surveys annually since 1986 for the purpose of collecting data on the prevalence of major health risk factors among adults residing in the state. Information gathered in these surveys can be used to target health education and risk reduction activities throughout the state in order to lower rates of premature death and disability.

The data presented in this report come from approximately 16,000 landline telephone BRFSS surveys conducted in Nebraska in 2008. Prevalence estimates are based on weighted data rather than raw numbers of responses to a question. The weights adjust for over- or under-sampling of age/gender groups.

To learn more about the Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, or to view additional reports, visit: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/brfss>